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Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 215839

NODIS
CHEROKEE, FOR LOW AND EDMONDSON

FOLLOWING REPEAT OF DAR ES SALAAM 3589 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 22.

QUOTE: S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 3589

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASST. SECY. MOOSE ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, TZ
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PRESIDENT NYERERE'S VIEWS ON CURRENT
EFFORTS AT SOLUTION

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NYERERE EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT ZAMBIAN-NIGERIAN-BRITISH SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH. END SUMMARY.

2. I HAD HOUR'S DISCUSSION ON RHODESIA WITH NYERERE MID-DAY AUGUST 22 WHICH BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.
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3. TOWARD END OF CONVERSATION, I NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO MORNING PAPER, BRIGADIER GARBA HAD BEEN IN TOWN AND ASKED CASUALLY IF NIGERIANS WERE CURRENTLY ACTIVE ON ZIMBABWE PROBLEM.

4. NYERERE REPLIED BY SUGGESTING WE TAKE A WALK IN HIS GARDEN, THUS GETTING RID OF ONE OF HIS PERSONAL SECRETARIES WHO HAD

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BEEN WITH US. IN THE GARDEN HE ASKED, "DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS GENTLEMAN FROM ENGLAND WYO ARRIVED HERE THIS MORNING?" I SAID I DID NOT.

5. NYERERE WENT ON TO SAY HE WAS QUITE WORRIED. THE ZAMBIANS HAD DRAGGED THE NIGERIANS INTO SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH HE WAS VERY DUBIOUS, I.E., A MEETING BETWEEN GARBA AND SMITH. THIS HAD ALREDY TAKEN PLANCE AND SMITH HAD ALLEGEDLY TOLD GARBA THAT HE WANTED A MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND WAS PREPARED TO TURN OVER POWER TO IT. "A GENTLEMAN FROM LONDON" HAD ARRIVED IN DAR ES SALAAM THIS MORNING AS PART OF THIS PLAN.

6. AS FAR AS NYERERE COULD DETERMINE, GARBA HAD NOT BROUGHT TO OR RECEIVED FROM SMITH ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL OR POINTS OF AGREE-MENT. NYERERE SIMPLY DID NOT BELIEVE SMITH WAS YET READY TO TURN OVER POWER AND FEARED THIS WAS ANOTHER OF SMITH'S TRICKS. EVEN WHEN KISSINGER WORKED WITH SMITH ON A WRITTEN SET OF POINTS, SMITH HAD DOUBLECROSSED US ALL. THE NIGERIANS COULD EASILY END UP MERELY DISCREDITING THEMSELVES; THE REST OF US, WHO HAD WORKED LONG AND HARD FOR A SOLUTION, WERE LIKELY "TO TRIP OVER SOMEONE ELSE'S WIRE LYING AROUND IN THE DARK". I ASKED IF THE BRITISH WERE INVOLVED. NYERERE INSISTED HE DIDN'T KNOW FOR SURE.

7. COMMENT: NYERERE IS AN EXPERIENCED POLITICAIAN. HE WAS NOT PRIMARILY EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AT SOMEONE ELSE'S TRYING TO DO

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SOMETHING SECRETLY. INDEED, HE SAID, "IF THEY CAN MAKE IT WORK, FINE. BUT THEY WON'T." HOWEVER, (A) HE CLEARLY DOES NOT THINK ANY GOOD IS LIKELY TO COME OUT OF THE GARBA EFFORT; (B) HIS SUSPICIONS OF THE BRITISH ARE STIRRING AGAIN; AND (C) HE IS DISTURBED AT WHAT HE CONSIDERED AN ILL-CONCEIVED AND UNCOORDINATED EFFORT ABOUT WHICH HE KNOWS LITTLE. I SYMPATHIZE WITH HIS FEELINGS -- ESPECIALLY SINCE, AS INDICATED SEPTEL ON REST OF CON-VERSATION, NYERERE EXPECTS TO CONTINUE BE ACTIVE IN RHODESIA SITUATION.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: IF USG AWARE OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE ZAMBIAN-NIGERIAN-BRITISH EFFORT, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO LET NYERERE KNOW THIS AND GIVE HIM SOME BETTER RATIONALE THAN HE NOW APPEARS TO HAVE. IF WE UNAWARE OF PLOY, IT PROBABLY WOULD BE HELPFUL TO LET HIM KNOW THAT, AS WELL AS OUR REACTION TO IT.
SPAIN
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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